

Crossroads TRA

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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Today

Overcast

High 71
Low 62



Saturday

Rain

High 68
Low 59



Sunday

Partly cloudy

High 68
Low 59



Semper Fi and Happy Birthday

By 1st Lt. George Tobias
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

It's been 83 years since the first Marine Corps Birthday Ball held in Philadelphia, and the first in recent memory to be held at Lajes Field. Not many Air Force bases would have a reason to formally celebrate a sister service's birthday, but Lajes played host to a Marine Corps Ball Sunday.

Marines from the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, who were passing through Lajes on their way back from the Middle East, celebrated the Marines' 233rd birthday a little early at the Lajes Top of the Rock Club, courtesy of the 65th Air Base Wing.

The club's ballroom was decorated in the Marine Corps colors of scarlet and gold. The Marines attending what they thought would be a small commemoration, were surprised with the amount of support they received. Sgt. Maj. Blain Jackson, 2nd MAW, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), who worked to organize the event, joked they had originally planned for a small celebration, with nothing fancy.

Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson, Commander, Ground Combat Element, II MEF (Fwd), said many Marines are celebrating in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. "It is a great privilege to be here at Lajes," he said. "We appreciate the support of the base in helping us celebrate the Marine Corps' birthday."

"It's one team, one fight," said Col. Peggy Poore, 65th ABW commander. "Anything we can do to help our sister ser-



Brig. Gen. Robert Walsh, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing assistant commander, hands a piece of cake to Col. Patrick O'Rourke, 2nd MAW. Also on stage is Lance Cpl. Lorenzo Villareal, 2nd MAW. Colonel O'Rourke and Corporal Villareal were the oldest and youngest Marines present during the ceremony here at Lajes Field commemorating the 233rd birthday of the Marine Corps. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. George Tobias)

vices is an honor."

Besides having Marines present for the anniversary of the creation of the Corps, Colonel Poore also has a reason to observe the event. As she put it, she was a Marine brat—her father a retired Colonel in the Marine Corps. She grew up experiencing Marine traditions and said this celebration reconnects her to her roots.

During the ceremony, the Marines present were reminded of the importance of the heritage of the Corps during the reading of Marine Corps Order No. 47, issued in 1921 by General John A. Lejeune. The order provides a summary of the history, mission, and traditions of the Corps and has been read ev-

ery year on Nov. 10 since 1921 in honor of the founding of the Marine Corps.

"It is important to remember who we are and our history," said Brig. Gen. Robert Walsh, 2nd MAW assistant commander.

The Marine Corps was originally founded on Nov. 10, 1775 and was composed of infantrymen to service on Continental Naval ships. Their main mission was to provide security for the ship, which included protecting the ship's officers in the event of a mutiny, and serve as the ship's attack force when hand to hand combat was required.

Today, the Marine Corps is an at the ready expeditionary force with a long and proud history.



Warrior Care Month recognizes sacrifices; support, programs

By Gen. Roger Brady

United States Air Forces in Europe commander

The Department of Defense recently designated November as Warrior Care Month. To stress the importance of this observance I want to reach out to all active duty, National Guard and Reserve Airmen to tell you there are programs and resources within the Air Force, the DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs available to you.

The Air Force is committed to its wounded warriors and will honor the sacrifices of our Airmen and their families by providing the best medical and professional support throughout recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration. Additionally, our service is committed to continually reviewing and improving the ways in which we provide that support.

The Air Force defines a wounded warrior as any Airman that has a direct combat or hostility-related injury or illness requiring long-term care that will require a Medical Evaluation Board or Physical Evaluation Board to determine fitness for duty. Wounded warriors may be identified in theater, upon immediate return or through post-deployment medical support.

While we've always taken care of our wounded warriors, treating more than 400 wounded Airmen since Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom began has given us lessons learned and new processes to help enhance our efforts.

In 2005, the Air Force formalized warrior and survivor care under the Air Force Wounded Warrior program to streamline

its processes. Under this program, the Air Force works to keep skilled men and women in uniform, and when unable to do so, ensures Airmen receive assistance as they shift to civilian life.

The AFW2 program works with the Air Force Survivor Assistance Program and Airman and Family Readiness Centers to ensure Airmen receive professional support and care from the point of injury to no less than five years after separation or retirement. This program focuses on specific family needs, providing the best individualized support based on identified needs. It truly is a team effort to support the AFW2 program. All the agencies involved work together to provide services regardless of the location or status of our wounded Airmen and their families.

An array of government and private organizations are committed to meeting the needs of our wounded warriors. These organizations and laws provide a number of benefits and rights for servicemembers and their families to help with financial, medical, educational, employment and other needs. For more information on the AFW2 program, go to www.woundedwarrior.af.mil.

While some Airmen prefer to stay in uniform, others may express an interest to not stay in the Air Force. The wounded warrior program staff works with each individual to provide a thorough analysis of opportunities and benefits that are available if they are medically retired or if they are separated as a combat veteran.

We have an enduring commitment to our wounded warriors to provide them the best medical and professional support throughout their recovery and reintegration. It's the right thing to do for our Airmen and their families.

Moms hold important key to reducing breast cancer

By Alysha Jones

Crossroads contributor

I don't know about you, but I don't think about getting breast cancer very often. Occasionally though, especially when I hear about a new celebrity, such as Christina Applegate, looking this life threatening disease in the face, I become aware again that it can happen to anyone. Or I will realize as I'm laying in bed snuggled up between my husband and sleeping baby that it has been X number of months (more like partial or whole years) since I have even considered doing a breast self-examination. The media is kind enough to constantly remind us that bad things happen. Really bad things. "Worry," they say between the lines. They seem a little less excited to broadcast the messages we all long to hear—you have hope and a future. But I've got one for you.

As a new mommy of a baby under one year old, I've had the opportunity to go looking for a lot of information that mainstream media simply isn't providing to its readers. When I stumbled across articles that discussed the many health benefits of breastfeeding a newborn immediately after birth and often thereafter into the middle of the first year exclusively, and then supplemented by age appropriate foods until at least one if not two years of age or longer, I thought, "I've never read all of this before, but I've heard snippets."

To read the entire story, visit, www.lajes.af.mil.

535-4240

actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Line is your link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air

Base Wing for which you can't find another solution. Your chain of command should always be your first option for

praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Line at 535-4240 or actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. Peggy Poore

Col. Peggy Poore
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

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THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS



Quarterly Awards

Col. Peggy Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander, presents Staff Sgt. Chris Graham from the 65th OSS with a wing quarterly award during the the 3rd Quarter Award ceremony held here Nov. 7.

ALS graduates....



Col. Peggy Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander, addresses the newest Lajes Airman Leadership School graduates and guests attending ALS Class 09-A graduation ceremony here Nov. 8. ALS is a five week-long Air Force program designed to develop Airmen into effective front-line supervisors. It is the first professional military education that enlisted Air Force members encounter. ALS focuses on developing leadership abilities as well as effective communication. (U.S. Air Force photo by Guido Melo)



Top of the Pyramid...

Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Longacre, 65th Mission Support Group superintendent (Left) and Chief Master Sgt. Douglas McIntyre, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, (right) tack Chief stripes on to Senior Master Sgt. Robert Newton, AFN Lajes Defense Media Activity Wednesday. Sergeant Newton was selected for promotion to E-9. Air Force-wide 520 senior master sergeants were selected for promotion to chief. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Falvo)



Semper Fi...

Col. Peggy Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander, greets Brig. Gen. Robert Walsh, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing assistant commander, as he arrives at Lajes Field. The general and about 45 other Marines, who were passing through Lajes on their return to the States, celebrated the Marine Corps' 233rd birthday here at Lajes Field Nov. 9. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. George Tobias)



Mark your calendar



WWII Remembrance Service: A World War II Service of Remembrance ceremony is scheduled today at 10:45 a.m. at the British Cemetery, Lajes Community. Service Dress is required for military members and business attire for civilians who wish to attend the ceremony. The service of remembrance is held annually in conjunction with the Portuguese Air Force, and it honors British military personnel and other allies who made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom and were buried at Lajes during World War II. For details, call 535-4211.

VA benefits briefing: A Veterans Administration benefit briefing will be conducted 10 a.m. Nov. 24 at the Airman and Family Readiness Center. The VA service representative, Mr. Dave Paquette, will be briefing on a wide range of benefits such as disability, education and training, home loan and life insurance. Active-duty members who are one year from separating or two years from retirement and family members are encouraged to attend.

Sponsor an Airman Program: The chapel is looking for families to sponsor an Airman for Thanksgiving Day. Stop by or call the chapel to sign-up at 535-4211 by Nov. 23.

At the Movies



Admission: Free
Location: Community Center

6 p.m. Thursday - Mirrors (Rated R)
6 p.m. Friday - The Dark Knight (P-13)
2 p.m. Saturday - The Dark Knight (PG-13)
6 p.m. Saturday - Babylon A.D. (PG-13)
2 p.m. Sunday - Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13)

Refreshments are available for those who wish to purchase them.

Basketball officiating training: Chubby Chuck's Officiating Association is offering trainings for members who are interested in becoming basketball officials. Take advantage of professional training that will properly prepare you for officiating stateside or your next duty station. For more information, email: chubbychuck03@hotmail.com; demond.chatman@lajes.af.mil or andre.booker@lajes.af.mil.

3-on-3 Basketball tournament: The American Indian Heritage Month Committee will be asking Lajes' basketball players to come out to the Chace Fitness Center on Nov. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to participate in a 3-on-3 Basketball tournament (with one substitution). There will be an entry fee of \$5. The winners will take home a 1st place trophy and the right to be called the best on the rock. The remainder of the proceeds will go to one of the American Indian CFC funds.

Continental Breakfast: The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite you to a Continental Breakfast on Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. Come enjoy a good breakfast and wonderful fellowship at the chapel. There will be door prizes. Please R.S.V.P. by C.O.B today. To R.S.V.P. or for more information, call Michelle Velez at 295-54-9252.

Records Management Class: A Records Management Class is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 20 at the Base Education Office Auditorium. The class is designed to reinforce training for unit Chief of Records/Records Custodians. Contact Staff Sgt. Tymbika Mason at 535-2916 or e-mail lajesfieldbaserecordsmanagment.brm@lajes.af.mil.

CLASSIFIEDS

For sale: 2002 Chrysler Town & Country minivan, 65K miles, great condition, \$9,000. Call 295-549-734 or 969-070-959.

For sale: 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee, auto, tires, brake pads, water pump, muffler, & exhaust all less than 1 yr old. Newly installed radio/cd player, runs great, \$3,500 firm. Call Sandy cell: 926588206, home: 295516136, duty: 295576505.

ANGEL TREES

Christmas trees with Angels are at the BX and at the Base Chapel. Choose an angel, purchase a gift and place the bagged gifts in the box beside the tree with the Angel in the bag.



FREE ELECTRIC GUITAR WORKSHOP

An electric guitar workshop is offered every Wednesday from 5 - 6 p.m. at the Community Activity Center. Sessions are limited to 4 students. Members must be at least 12 years old. The workshop is free. It is preferred that attendees have a guitar and practice amp. For more information, call Jim Norman at 535-6126 or Rudy Wallace at 535-5216.